

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/889,183
Attorney Docket No. 72.049
Page 2 of 19

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER
OCT 11 2011

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A soil compaction device comprising:
 - a soil contact plate;
 - an oscillator that acts on the soil contact plate, has at least two eccentric masses that rotate in opposite directions whose phase relationship can be adjusted relative to one another by means of a positioning unit in order to control the direction of soil compaction device travel and to steer the soil compaction device in a yawing motion; and
 - at least one manually engageable rotatable power steering control lever moving operator element configured to control the positioning unit via an electric signal: wherein a sensor unit is provided to determine the position of the operator power steering control lever element and to produce a signal to control the positioning unit so as to control the direction of soil compaction device travel and steer the soil compaction device in response to manipulation of the operator power steering control lever element.
2. (Currently Amended) A soil compaction device according to claim 1, wherein the power steering control lever operator element and the sensor unit are attached to a guide handle of the soil compaction device.
3. (Previously Presented) A soil compaction device according to claim 1, wherein the sensor unit has at least one capacitive, inductive or resistive sensor.
4. (Currently Amended) A soil compaction device according to claim 1, wherein the sensor unit has at least one Hall sensor or a reed contact as well as a transmitting element attached to the power steering control lever operator element.
5. (Previously Presented) A soil compaction device according to claim 1, wherein the sensor unit has at least one proximity switch.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/889,183
Attorney Docket No. 72.049
Page 3 of 19

6. (Previously Presented) A soil compaction device according to claim 1, wherein the positioning unit has a fluid-activated piston/cylinder unit as well as an electromechanical valve controlled by the signal from the sensor unit to control a fluid stream at the piston/cylinder unit.

7. (Currently Amended) A soil compaction device according to claim 1, wherein two power steering control levers operator elements are provided that move independent of one another and through which the phase relationship of a group of rotating eccentric masses can be changed.

8. (Currently Amended) A soil compaction device according to claim 1, wherein the power steering control lever operator element can be tilted away from a spring effect from a zero position, and in this zero position its overall force resulting from the rotating eccentric masses has no horizontal component.

9. (Currently Amended) A soil compaction device according to claim 1, wherein, in addition to the power steering control lever operator element, a remote control unit is provided with a sending unit that can be spatially separated from the soil compaction device and with a receiving unit attached to the soil compaction device, wherein a signal can be produced by the receiver unit to control the positioning unit.

10. (Currently Amended) The soil compaction device of Claim 1, further including a pair of dampening elements to correspondingly dampen oscillation of the power steering control levers operator elements.

11. (Currently Amended) The soil compaction device of Claim 10, wherein the power steering control levers operator elements are supported by a guide handle coupled to the positioning unit, and wherein the dampening elements are disposed intermediate the power steering control levers operator elements and the guide handle.

12. (Previously Presented) The soil compaction device of Claim 11, wherein the dampening elements comprise rubber collars.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/889,183
Attorney Docket No. 72.049
Page 4 of 19

13. (Currently Amended) A soil compaction device comprising:
 - a soil contact plate having a guide handle;
 - a positioning unit;
 - an oscillator that acts on the soil contact plate, has at least two eccentric masses that rotate in opposite directions whose phase relationship can be adjusted relative to one another using the positioning unit in order to control the direction of soil compaction device travel and to steer the soil compaction device in a yawing motion; and
 - an operator element rotatable power steering control handle that is mounted on the guide handle and that is configured to generate electrical command signals upon manual engagement thereof for steering the soil compaction device and for controlling the direction of compaction device travel;
 - a sensor unit located remote from the power steering control handle operator element, wherein the sensor unit determines the position of the power steering control handle operator element and produces a corresponding signal to control the positioning unit in order to steer the soil compaction device and to control the direction of soil compaction device travel.
14. (Currently Amended) A soil compaction device according to claim 13, wherein the power steering control handle operator element comprises two independently movable control handles.
15. (Previously Presented) A soil compaction device according to claim 13, wherein each sensor unit has at least one capacitive, inductive or resistive sensor.
16. (Currently Amended) A soil compaction device according to claim 13, wherein each sensor unit has at least one Hall sensor or a reed contact as well as a transmitting element attached to the corresponding power steering control handle operator element.
17. (Previously Presented) A soil compaction device according to claim 13, wherein the positioning unit has a fluid-activated piston/cylinder unit as well as an electromechanical valve controlled by the signal from the sensor unit to control a fluid stream at the piston/cylinder unit

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/889,183
Attorney Docket No. 72.049
Page 5 of 19

18. (Currently Amended) A soil compaction device according to claim 13, wherein the two power steering control handles ~~operator elements~~ move independent of one another and through which the phase relationship of a group of rotating eccentric masses can be changed.
19. (New) The soil compaction device according to claim 13, wherein the power steering control handle comprises a joystick.
20. (New) The soil compaction device according to claim 1, wherein the power steering control lever comprises a joystick.